Tompkins, Rev. J J [University of St. Francis Xavier's College, Antigonish, N.S.] 1918 (018)

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February 12th, 1918

Rev. Professor J. J. Tompkins,

Saint Francis Xavier University.

Dear Dr. Tompkins:

I have to thank you for the two addresses on "Catholic Higher Education" delivered by Dr. Shahan and M. Barnes. I shall be glad to read them both at the earliest opportunity. I know both these gentlemen by name.

I hope that you are having a successful winter, but I understand that the severity of the winter prevails in Nova Scotia pretty much as it has been also in Ontario. Probably I shall have a chance of seeing you again in May at our Conference in Ottawa.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Tompkins, Rev. J J (University of St. Francis Xavier's College, Antigonish, N.S.)

1918 (618)

February 18th, 1918

Rev. Dr. J. J. Tompkins,

St. Francis Xavier College.

Dear Professor Tompkins:

Allow me to congratulate you on the fine showing of St. Francis Xavier College men who have enlisted for overseas service. I am sure that they will give a good account of themselves. Among the most encouraging features of our present disasters is the fine way in which the Universities of the country have risen to the occassion.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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Personal

University of
St. Francis Xavier's College
Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Mar. 1, 1918.

Sir R. A. Falconer,
President, Toronto University,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir Robert:-

I am preparing a short paper on Academic Honesty, with a view to its being read by many Catholics in Canada, and I should like very much to have your views on the requirements for the standard college and the standard university.

What in your opinion is the minimum requirement in order that an institution may call itself a college, what that it may call itself a university? If you could touch also on the question of endowment, the degrees of the professors, and the absolute necessity of relegating high school work to its proper place, I should be very grateful indeed. I mention these things because many people think that "any old thing" will make a professor, that you can start a college on fifty cents, and with kindergarten pupils. In my article I should probably say "Sir Robert Falconer says so and so on the standard college, etc."

I hope I am not making too bold in thus breaking in upon your valuable time. I think I have a chance of waking up some of our people to the necessity of graduate work.

Yours very sincerely,

J. J. Tompkins

March 4th, 1918

Rev. Professor J. J. Tompkins,

St. Francis Xavier College,

Antigonish, N.S.

Dear Dr. Tompkins:

My own view is that an institution has a right to call itself a College when it has a standard of entrance somewhat of the same grade as the matriculation examination as we know it in Canada, and that the college should teach the subjects leading to the B.A. degree covering the curriculum of four years similar to those for which the degree is given throughout this Dominion. A University, on the other hand, should have several faculties in addition to Arts, say, Law, Medicine, Applied Science, etc.

As for the standards these will depend to a great extent upon the quality of the professors who hold the chairs. Those who give instruction at the head of a department should undoubtedly be men who have been abroad and who have studied their subject under well-known teachers. It is essential for our people that in Canada they should have the opportunity of as thorough an education as can be got elsewhere. Our people have the ability if they are properly trained and our Canadian students, if they had a thorough training first at our Universities and then have gone abroad to get the best in other Universities, will on their return be able to maintain a high standard in the Universities of Canada.

The difference in cost for the maintenance of a

University as compared with that of a college is very great. For a College in addition to the professors you need mainly a library, and four or five up-to-date laboratories in Chemistry, Physics, Geology and Biology, but for a professional school the necessary outlay is very large. In Applied Science, for instance, the apparatus is costly,- electrical machinery, thermodynamic and hydraulic machinery, mining, metallurgy,-and equipment of various kinds ivolves large outlay. In Medicine also there must be an up-to-date hospital, and laboratories for Physiology, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Pathology, Hygiene, Pharmacy, Chemical Pathology, to say nothing of the laboratories on the clinical sides. The outlay, therefore, is quite large. Unfortunately sometimes the ambition of our people runs beyond their means, and instead of being contented with first class college work they wish to undertake professional work for which the money is not forthcoming.

If there is anything further in which I can help you let me know. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.